

Montana Transportation Commission

November 1, 2005 meeting ~ 8 am

MDT Headquarters building ~ 2701 Prospect Avenue, Helena, MT

SUMMARY MINUTES

Please note: the complete recorded minutes (audio files) are available for review on the commission's website at http://www.mdt.mt.gov/pubinvolve/trans_comm/meetings.shtml. You may request a compact disc (containing the audio files, agenda, and minutes) from the transportation secretary at (406) 444-7200 or ldemont@mt.gov. Alternative accessible formats of this document will be provided upon request. For additional information, please call (406) 444-7200. The TTY number is (406) 444-7696 or 1-800-335-7592.

The following is an unofficial **summary** of commission action; the formal minutes of this meeting will be reviewed and approved at the next commission meeting.

Changes to the agenda

The following items were requested to be removed from the agenda:

Agenda item 3: Rest area design options and the *Rest Area Plan*

Agenda item 4: Draft outdoor advertising rules

Agenda item 17c: Delegation from Westway Construction regarding liquidated damages

Commissioner Espy moved to accept the changes to the agenda; Commissioner Griffith seconded the motion. All five commissioners voted aye.

Agenda item 1: Approve minutes

- a. July 28, 2005 meeting in Baker
- b. Conference call on August 17, 2005
- c. Conference call on August 29, 2005
- d. September 8, 2005 meeting in East Glacier
- e. Conference call on October 3, 2005

Commissioner Espy moved to accept staff recommendations to approve the minutes as presented; Commissioner Griffith seconded the motion. All five commissioners voted aye.

Agenda item 2: Speed limit studies

Hanson Road - Urban Route 1820 (Butte-Silver Bow County)
US 12 - East Helena - East (Lewis and Clark County)
Secondary 261 - Wibaux North (Wibaux County)
Secondary 399 - Whitehall North (Jefferson County)

Hanson Road – Urban Route 1820 (Butte-Silver Bow County)

Staff recommendations following the addition of Hanson Road to Butte-Silver Bow's federal-aid urban system:

- A 25 mph speed limit beginning at the intersection with Rowe Road and continuing west to station 13+50 (straight lines only), an approximate distance of 1,350 feet.
- A 35 mph speed limit beginning at station 13+50 (straight lines only) and continuing northwest to the intersection with Montana Street, an approximate distance of 3,500 feet.

Commissioner Griffith moved to accept staff recommendations; Commissioner Espy seconded the motion. All five commissioners voted aye.

US 12 – East Helena – East (Lewis and Clark County)

Staff recommendations:

- A 55 mph speed limit beginning at station 240+00 on US Highway 12 through East Helena, project F 8-2(5) (200' east of Secondary 518) and continuing east to station 293+50 (east of the intersection with Lake Helena Drive), an approximate distance of 5,350 feet.

Commissioner Kottel moved to accept staff recommendations; Commissioner Griffith seconded the motion. All five commissioners voted aye.

Secondary 261 – Wibaux North (Wibaux County)

Staff recommendations:

- Increase the 70 mph speed zone on Secondary 261 north of Wibaux to include the new construction.
- A 55 mph speed limit will begin at (metric) station 219+23, (the end of project STPS 261-1(8) where the gravel portion of the road begins) and continue north to the Wibaux county line, an approximate distance of 14.34 miles.

Commissioner Espy moved to accept staff recommendations; Commissioner Griffith seconded the motion. All five commissioners voted aye.

Secondary 399 – Whitehall North (Jefferson County)

Staff recommendations:

- A 35 mph speed limit beginning at metric station 12+60, project STPP 55-3(9) and continuing north to metric station 12+50, project STPS 399-1(3), an approximate distance of 440 meters or 1450 feet.
- A 50 mph speed limit beginning at metric station 12+50, project STPS 399-1(3) and continuing north to metric station 27+80 (milepost 1.2), an approximate distance of 1530 meters or 5,020 feet.
- A 60 mph speed limit beginning at metric station 27+80, project STPS 399-1(3) and

continuing north to metric station 39+80 (milepost 1.9), an approximate distance of 1,200 meters or 3,940 feet.

- From milepost 1.9 to the end of the pavement the statutory 70 mph speed limit will remain in effect.

Commissioner Griffith moved to accept staff recommendations; Commissioner Espy seconded the motion. All five commissioners voted aye.

Agenda item 5: Two SAFETEA-LU earmarks on MDT right-of-way

*Conrad I-15 north interchange
South arterial – Great Falls*

Commissioner Kottel moved to approve the addition of the Great Falls south arterial project to the program for preliminary engineering; Commissioner Griffith seconded the motion. All five commissioners voted aye.

Commissioner Kottel moved for approval of a scope of work change for the Conrad I 15 North Interchange project to include a northbound ramp and a rest area contingent upon an acceptable agreement with local government to provide the match; Commissioners Espy and Griffith seconded the motion. All five commissioners voted aye.

Agenda item 6: Two SAFETEA-LU earmarks off MDT right-of-way

*Bike/ped paths – Whitefish area
Silicon Mtn Tech Park & Port*

These projects are not on MDT right-of-way and were presented to the commission for informational purposes only.

Agenda item 7: Wetland in lieu of fee payment

Commissioner Howlett moved to accept staff recommendations to expend \$268,425 for the mitigation of 9.82 acres of wetland mitigation (\$10,000 for environmental work and coordination, and \$258,425 to the Montana Fish, Wildlife & Parks Wetlands Legacy program); Commissioner Griffith seconded the motion. All five commissioners voted aye.

Agenda item 8: Wetlands – stream restoration

Yellow Owl/Barcus wetland mitigation

Commissioner Kottel moved to accept staff recommendations to approve the expenditure of \$325,000 for the two wetland mitigation projects as recommended via the Blackfeet Nation Wetland Feasibility Study; Commissioners Griffith and Espy seconded the motion. All five commissioners voted aye.

Agenda item 9: East Belgrade interchange and connecting roads

Commissioner Espy noted that an earlier motion had reserved \$10 million in Federal-aid funds towards construction and construction engineering for the Belgrade Interchange (please see agenda item 13 for more information). She moved to address staff recommendations that the state match for the \$10 million (approximately \$1.3 million) be contributed to the project contingent upon the following: that Gallatin County prioritize improvements to Secondary 205, that Gallatin County and the city of Belgrade construct the other connecting links needed for the operation of the interchange, and that the local sponsors (Gallatin County and the city of Belgrade) manage the other phases of project development; Commissioner Griffith seconded the motion. All five commissioners voted aye.

Agenda item 10: Railroad crossings – signal installation & circuitry upgrade

<i>NE of Huntley</i>	<i>Coal Mine Road – W Chinook</i>
<i>Warren's loop – east Hardin</i>	<i>O'Rea Creek Road – W Livingston</i>
<i>Central Avenue – Stanford</i>	<i>Moffit Canyon – East Bozeman</i>
<i>Central Avenue – Hobson</i>	<i>Griffin Drive – Bozeman</i>
<i>Telstad Road – W Devon</i>	<i>L Street – Bozeman</i>
<i>East of Rudyard</i>	

Commissioner Espy moved to accept staff recommendations to add these projects to the program; Commissioner Griffith seconded the motion. All five commissioners voted aye.

Agenda item 11: Signal on Cartage Road on US 93 in Missoula

Commissioner Howlett moved to accept staff recommendations to approve the addition of this project to the program; Commissioner Griffith seconded the motion. All five commissioners voted aye.

Agenda item 12: Addition of two projects to the program

Culbertson – East
MT 16 – Culbertson

Commissioner Espy moved to accept staff recommendations to approve the the addition of project to initiate preliminary engineering for the rehabilitation of US 2 Culbertson-East and MT 16 – Culbertson; Commissioner Kottel seconded the motion. All five commissioners voted aye.

The STIP will be amended to include these projects.

Agenda item 13: Interstate capacity program

Missoula District – Orange street to Bonner

Great Falls District – Helena capitol interchange, Highway 12 connection and I-15 railroad bridges and additional lanes from capitol to Custer

Billings District – West Laurel interchange

Commissioner Kottel moved for approval of the projects presented for the Interstate capacity program and approval of the staff recommendation for the reservation of \$10 million to be used towards construction and construction engineering for the Belgrade Interchange; Commissioner Griffith seconded the motion. All five commissioners voted aye.

Agenda item 14: Letting lists

Commissioner Howlett moved to accept staff recommendations to approve the letting lists as presented for November 2005 through April 2006; Commissioner Espy seconded the motion. All five commissioners voted aye.

Agenda item 15: Certificates of completion for July and August 2005

Commissioner Espy moved to accept staff recommendations to approve the certificates of completion as presented for July and August 2005; Commissioner Kottel seconded the motion. All five commissioners voted aye.

Agenda item 16: Project change orders

August 2005 = \$1,124,753.08

September 2005 = \$949,042.69

Commissioner Espy moved to accept staff recommendations to approve the change orders as presented for August and September 2005; Commissioner Kottel seconded the motion. All five commissioners voted aye.

Agenda item 17: Liquidated damages

(a) \$45,450.00 assessed on project - SFCN 10-2(27)52 - Loma - Box Elder, Prince Inc. of Forsyth, MT

(b) 7,152.00 assessed on project - NH 16-1(42)1- Main Street -Billing Heights, Empire Sand & Gravel Co. of Billings, MT

(c) 1,818.00 assessed on project - STPS-PLH 323-1(15)51 - Albion N & S, Westway Construction Inc of Airway Heights, WA

The commission took no action on (a) and (b) therefore the liquidated damages stand. Westway Construction (item (c)) has requested their appearance before the commission be postponed again, pending resolution of their complaint against MDT.

Agenda item 18: Set commission schedule for upcoming meetings

Chairman Kennedy proposed the following dates for 2006:

January 18-19	May 24-25	September 13-14
March 1-2	June 28-29	October 25-26
April 12-13	August 2-3	December 6-7

The TCP meetings in November will still need to be scheduled. It was suggested that participants have time to review the suggested dates and the commission wait to take action until the December 7 meeting.

Commissioner Howlett said I feel very strongly about the gas crunch but I also feel strongly about being back out in our communities. They can't get to Helena. He suggested using the polycom in the district office. Chairman Kennedy confirmed that being out in the districts is very positive. Lynch said we need to review the expectations of this administration.

=> Chairman Kennedy asked that we review that in December.

Agenda item 19: Commission discussion

Follow-up is needed regarding the use of a base stabilizer on secondary roads, as raised by Liberty County at the September 8 commission meeting in East Glacier.

A meeting is scheduled for 12/5/05 with FHWA and department representatives from planning, maintenance and engineering. This meeting will take place two days prior to the next commission meeting, so hopefully we'll have more information available about the product and attendant practices, and whether they'd be Federal-aid eligible on secondary roads.

=> It was suggested that a copy of the bill (SB 333 from the 1999 legislative session) be presented and discussed at the next commission meeting. Straehl offered a clarification that even if the state assumes additional mileage, it may not be able to actually maintain the roads unless the legislature approves the maintenance funding.

=> Reardon said he would include list of roads that have been adopted by the state.

Agenda item 20: Public comment

During the discussion, Chairman Kennedy said he would like to see a workshop on the role of commission at the January 2006 meeting.